



Start of Kurt E. Reinsberg Collection

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Kurt E Reinberg collector, undated, 1987-2002

My experience with the +KF, 2002

My Experience with the F.B.I.

1940 to 1943

Kurt E. Reinsberg

revised October 2002

INTRODUCTION

One morning in March 1943, at around 10 a.m., my mother called me in my office saying that minutes after I had left home, (I lived with my parents), two men rang the bell, identified themselves as federal agents, and stated they had a warrant to search the apartment. As mother told me, these men went through the place with a fine tooth comb, they opened every drawer, knocked on all the walls, took out and leafed through every book, lifted the carpets--as thorough a search as one could imagine. My father was in bed with angina pectoris but nevertheless they asked my dad to get up and searched under the mattress. They took with them all letters and papers not in English. Mother was very upset and asked me what this could this mean. I told her I had no idea

Only minutes after this phone call the receptionist called to tell me there were two men asking to see me. They were from the FBI and asked me to go with them to an office in the Federal Building for questioning. When, to gain some time, I said I couldn't leave the office immediately because I had work to do, one of the agents said "OK, you will finish work by 5 p.m. You know you can't run away from us. So be at the Federal Building, Room so and so, by 6 p.m. tonight. And have a good meal first."

Now I was really in shock. I went to see Joseph Slaughter, the company lawyer, and asked him to whether he could go there with me. He replied "Look here, Reinsberg, if you're innocent you have nothing to worry about. And if you're not, then I don't want anything to do with your problems." This was disappointing. I was on my own and did not have any idea why the FBI agents wanted to speak to me. With a heavy heart (and an empty stomach) I reported to the designated office in the Federal Building. I was kept waiting for a long time in a room with several characters hanging about, who asked me repeatedly why I was there, which organizations I belonged to, etc. I was not in a mood to talk to them. I felt sure that they were some kind of stool pigeons. Finally, after more than an hour of waiting, I was led into a room that had two chairs and a desk with a notepad. A man came in and told me to write down the names of all places I had traveled to during the last three years, the names of all the persons I had met during these travels and the purpose of each trip. I filled out several pages. After more waiting I was led to another room where two men grilled me, first about personal experiences in Nazi Germany. They then questioned me about a meeting I had had in Mexico City in 1940 with a Mr. Richter. His name was on my list of persons I had met with in Mexico in the last three years.

I explained the reason I had visited Mr. Richter's office was that I had received a request from my New York office to check into the market for steel

products in Mexico. When I had inquired as to who would be a good person to speak to about this, our agent in Mexico City had suggested I speak to Richter, a German representing European steel mills. He allegedly also represented some small American steel producers. "Was this your only meeting with Richter?" I was asked. "It was," I replied. I then told the agent I remembered having sent a written report covering this meeting to my New York on stationery of the Ritz Hotel in Mexico City. I added that this letter should still be on file at Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. At about 2 o'clock in the morning I was told that I could go home, and that I should check whether I could find this letter and if so, return with it to their office. My parents were absolutely frantic and quite relieved when I finally showed up.

Early next morning I canvassed the files and indeed found this letter as well as a copy of the telegram that Associated had sent me asking to investigate the steel market in Mexico. I returned to the Federal Building and handed both papers to one of the interrogators. Once more I was told to wait. Two hours later I was ushered into the office of an Assistant District Attorney who said "Your case has been thoroughly investigated and you're OK." He shook hands with me and apologized for any inconveniences I may have suffered. In February 1944 I was sworn in as a citizen of the United States.

After the war I found out that Richter had been a key German agent in Mexico and that the Mexican government immediately interned him for the duration after it declared war on Germany a few days after Pearl Harbor.

By sheer luck, in 1945 I became privy to more information on my case, when after completing my basic training in the US Air Corps at Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas, I was assigned to Technical Intelligence (T2) operating at Strategic Air Command headquarters at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. My transfer to this hush-hush unit required to level security clearance.

One morning my desk sergeant at T2 called me into his office and asked me whether I wanted to read some interesting documents. I said "Why not?" He pushed my personnel file across the desk and said "Read this, Reinsberg, but don't tell anybody I let you see it." Attached to the usual Army personnel documents there was a report on me issued by the FBI with copies of a number of documents all stamped "Secret." Prior to my transfer a background check on me had been requested from the FBI. I remember that one of the papers was a copy of an agent's report claiming that he had observed me walking to the office of a Mr. Richter from the offices of SOFIDES (a small Mexican Bank where Martin Schwarz, our Mexico City representative, had his office). The agent reported I was a German national who spoke several languages fluently, that I worked for a German firm in New York and he speculated that I was a financial courier servicing German espionage in Mexico. The FBI report continued that my home phone had been monitored for an extensive period: "results negative;" that my mail had been intercepted and read: "results negative;" that a survey of friends and other contacts had not produced any relationship with disloyal persons. (I had not been aware of any of this). The report

continued that a thorough search had been carried out at my home, with negative results, that questioning by FBI agents had not turned up any negative leads, and that consequently the Reinsberg file had been closed.

On December 29, 1991, under the Freedom of Information Act, I wrote to the Department of Justice in Washington asking for copies of all documents relating to my activities in Mexico and in the United States during the years 1940 to 1944. I had filed my inquiries shortly after reading a newspaper report on the Freedom of Information Act. I also wrote to the State Department and to other departments asking for copies of papers pertaining to my case. Six months later I received a form letter from the State Department to the effect that their files did not contain any information on me, and that files for the period in question no longer existed.

In September 1993 I received a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service enclosing a "Record of Hearing" held in Brownsville, Texas, on July 2, 1941 (when I returned from a trip to Mexico). A copy of this letter is attached. At that time I had been traveling on a German passport issued in New York on July 18, 1940 and expiring July 18, 1941. Subsequently in 1941, prior to Pearl Harbor, I traveled to Mexico with a document issued by the State of New York, in lieu of a passport, because the German consulate was no longer issuing passports to Jewish refugees.

I didn't hear anything from the Department of Justice until five years later when I received a package from the Bureau of Justice, FBI, dated December 11, 1996, containing 85 pages of documents from FBI records. A covering note informed me that of 92 pages found, 85 pages had been released to me. For each unreleased page a "Deleted Page Information Sheet" was substituted, indicating under which subsection(s) of the United States Code, Title 5, of the Freedom of Information Act, the page was withheld. Nearly every one of the 85 pages released to me had black ink markings redacting portions of the text. Next to the blacked-out pieces a written symbol with numbers indicated the subsection of Title 5 of the Freedom of Information Act, also justifying the reductions.

I had been unaware there had been a case pending against me after I was denounced as a suspected German collaborator in Mexico City in the summer of 1941. I knew that the FBI had investigated my case; in February 1943 I was informed that all suspicions had been dismissed. I also knew the broad details of what I had been accused of. But there were still many questions in my mind as to exactly what had motivated this action. The government files helped to throw more light on the mysterious circumstances of my case.

THE FBI FILES

All these years, prior to receiving copies of the FBI files, I had assumed that, whoever had reported on my visit to Richter, had accidentally observed my visit to Richter and concocted a report with farfetched deductions to justify his pay.

The new documents, however, provided me with much better resources to find an answer regarding this. (It is interesting that a copy of the report of the Mexico City operative, which I had read in my army docket at Dayton, was not part of the documentation sent me). The earliest document sent me was dated July 2, 1941, (Hearing by INS in Brownsville). The first FBI report was dated after I had reentered Mexico on a subsequent trip. This was two months before Pearl Harbor. It is evident from these documents that the FBI office in Mexico had orders to check me out and that surveillance of my activities in Mexico had been initiated prior to my visit to Richter.

Possibly surveillance was initiated already early 1941, when I entered into discussions with Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

Here, I would like to quote background information from my autobiography:

In 1938 President Lazaro Cardenas of Mexico had nationalized, i.e. expropriated, the British and American owned petroleum properties in Mexico. This was the first nationalization of any oil producing and down stream properties owned by an international oil company. Up to then the major U.S. and British oil companies, the "Seven Sisters" had full control of worldwide oil production, transport, processing and distribution, outside of the United States. They reacted violently. They imposed an embargo on Mexican oil and oil products, which they strictly enforced. Any oil company buying from or providing services to Pemex, (the entity set up by the Mexican Government to operate these properties) was blacklisted. In this endeavor they had the full cooperation of major American and British business interests and, because of their tremendous influence, they enjoyed full unofficial support by the British Foreign Office and by the Department of State. When I initiated discussions with PEMEX, to my knowledge only one independent American oil refinery, Eastern State Petroleum Corp., had

managed to sign a small contract with Pemex for the purchase of Mexican crude for shipment to the United States. A maverick California based oil trader, William Rhoades Davis was written up in the press of having bartered Mexican oil against European (German/Italian?) refinery equipment

It was therefore not surprising that the US. Embassy in Mexico City had people reporting on any American who would discuss business with Pemex. I am sure that the Embassy or the oil companies had inside information (from Pemex Employees who had been formerly working for Mexican Eagle) on my initial negotiations with Pemex to purchase asphalt for shipment to North Carolina. In the eyes of the American oil companies, and surely also of certain elements in the eyes of the State Department, it may have been seen as a "disloyal" act for any American firm to break the embargo imposed by the "Seven Sisters"

They saw their stranglehold on the worldwide oil business threatened if Pemex were successful in marketing its oil and oil products abroad. Their long-term concern was that other producer countries would follow Mexico (as indeed they did years later- Iran, Libya, Venezuela, Indonesia and eventually Saudi Arabia etc)

The principal loser from the Mexican expropriation/ nationalization was "Mexican Eagle" a British company, which owned and operated nearly all the oil fields, pipelines and refineries in Mexico. (Mexican Eagle was an important part of the group that later became known as British Petroleum (BP) Only two American oil companies owned crude oil properties in Mexico, Texaco and Esso operated gas stations and small lubricating oil refineries.

How had I gotten into the oil business with Mexico? I quote once more from my autobiography:

In early 1940 my travels to Mexico became focused on a completely new line of business. Our office at 30 West Street was in the same building as that of the Barrett Company, a producer of asphalt roofing products. Barrett was the subsidiary of a major oil company. One day a man walked into our office asked to speak to the president and said that he had been working for Barrett's parent as director of sales of the asphalt division in Virginia, North and South Carolina. He had just left this job and was now looking for a firm with international connections that could finance his endeavors, to wit: Mexico had recently nationalized its oil industry. Mexico was an important producer of asphalt, a byproduct of oil refining. Mexican crudes have a high asphalt content that must be removed in the refining process. Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) the new Government oil monopoly had little use of asphalt in Mexico. His idea was that Pemex would sell its asphalt cheaply. He came to see us only because we happen to be in the same building as Barrett and he had seen our name. "Could we negotiate for purchase of asphalt in Mexico?" He explained that his end of the business was selling asphalt to the State Highway Commissions in North and South Carolina and Virginia, where he said he was well connected. To this effect, he had secured an option on the lease of an unloading and storage tank facility in Hatteras City, North Carolina. He also had an

option to lease a tank farm in Norfolk, Virginia. He had spoken to his friends in the State Governments in the Carolinas and Virginia and who said that they would be delighted to give him a chance to compete in the annual tenders to supply asphalt. Could we do the purchasing and finance the deals? He would do the selling. The profits to be split. He also explained, that in order to ship asphalt it has to be "cut back" with lighter oil fractions and be heated during transportation. Tankers equipped with heating coils were available in the charter market for trips from Veracruz to Hatteras City and Norfolk.

At this point our President, Hugo Neu, called me in, brought me up to date, and introduced me as the firm's Mexico expert. After a checkup on the man, which came out perfect, a joint agreement was signed, and off I went to Mexico.

My negotiations with Pemex were very difficult and required several trips and prolonged stays. Pemex was a new enterprise. The managers were reluctant to take responsibilities. Under the Mexican Eagle Oil Company, the former owners, Englishmen and Americans had held all the managerial positions. (The highest position held by a Mexican prior to expropriation was as assistant accountant at a refinery). The international oil companies actively boycotted Mexico.

I had been authorized to secure an option for the purchase up to two tanker loads of cutback-asphalt, but not to make an outright purchase at this stage. This did not make the negotiations any easier. If I succeeded, Associated Metals would be the second American buyer of Mexican oil, or oil by-products, for shipment to the United States. It took a lot of back and forth discussions until I was able to finalize the negotiations for the deal: a firm option in favor of Associated Metals for a contract for one to two tanker loads of cutback asphalt with further options for multiple shipments of asphalt over several years. Based on this option, true to his word, our partner won the tenders for the exclusive supply of asphalt to the North and South Carolina Highway Commissions, and later on to Virginia. On a later trip I bought a cargo of heating oil for shipment to a distributor who had terminals in a Connecticut. The contacts provided for PEMEX to deliver the asphalt and oil to the American ports of discharge, as we did not want to run the risk of the oil companies attaching the cargoes (Pemex being an entity of the Mexican Government was legally protected from attachment or seizure).

Only when charter rates and the cost of war risk insurance skyrocketed in 1942 due to the success of German submarines sinking tankers off the U S East Coast, did this lucrative business come to a premature end).

Other reasons of the FBI interest were my one and only visit to Mr. Richter, my travelling to Mexico in 1940 on a German passport and my association with Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. A perusal of the FBI documentation makes it crystal clear that Meno Lissauer and Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. were under suspicion of "clandestine attempts to ship metals to Nazi Germany and of engaging in financial dealings with the Third Reich" (It was nearly 50 years later, that I learned of the existence of an FBI files headed: "K.E. Reinsberg/ Associated Metals & Minerals Corporation").

At this point it may be useful to clarify my relationship with Meno Lissauer and with Associated Metals and Minerals Corp. In 1935, after a 4 months stage as an unpaid

volunteer at an Amsterdam firm doing business between Holland and the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), I landed a job at M. Lissauer & Co, in Cologne, Germany. This firm, founded in 1905 by Meno Lissauer and his brother, was a major worldwide trader in metals, minerals and chemical products. The attraction for me was that the firm had offices throughout Europe as well as in New York. The latter was called Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. founded in 1924. The shares of Associated Metals were in the name of Walter Rothschild, Meno Lissauer's brother in law, who was an American citizen. At M.Lissauer & Co, Cologne I worked in the ore department for 2 years, until I was granted the U.S. Immigration Visa. Within a week after arriving in New York in April 1937 I was hired at Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. The Lissauer group had a major long term contract for the purchase of zinc concentrates with Howe Sound Corporation, American company, operating a large zinc-lead mine and a lead smelter in the state of Zacatecas in northern Mexico. It also had several purchase contracts for zinc ores and concentrates with small Mexican owned mines. The concentrates were shipped to zinc smelters located in Belgium, France and Poland.

My initial travels to Mexico were in relation to the logistics of moving these concentrates by rail to the port of Tampico and to negotiate for the purchase of additional quantities of minerals and concentrates from Mexican mines.

THE FBI MEMORANDA

All the above leads to the Memorandum, of the Mexico City FBI office (#1) to the FBI either in San Antonio or in Washington, headed "Kurt Ernst Reinsberg, Espionage- G. " dated October 2, 1941. (' G' - for Germany).

It is interesting to note that the only recommendation made in this memo was that my business connections in New York be checked, especially with Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. The Memo stated that I claimed to be Belgian, that I had been attempting to purchase oil from Mexican Petroleum, that I claimed being a partner in Associated Metals & Minerals Corp and that my (?) company was interested in buying Mexican metals and had acquired mining properties in Mexico. (None of this was true, of course.)

Where the FBI got such massive misinformation is a mystery. Since my first trip to Mexico in 1939 I had always stayed at the Ritz, a small hotel in downtown Mexico City which was frequented by miners. I got to know many of the regulars, both Mexicans and Americans, and used to chat with some of them in the lobby of the Ritz. Some were real con artists, who sat around in the hotel lobby waiting for an innocent buyer to sign a contract for the purchase of a given quantity of ores from their "mine". With this in hand they would try to get a loan from a bank. These mines were usually worthless. I suspect that one of these characters may have been a source to the FBI because he was angry that I had not fallen for his game.

The Memorandum of the FBI, Washington(#2), under signature of John Edgar Hoover, addressed to "Special Agent in Charge", New York, dated November 29, 1941, repeats and elaborates on the information listed in the above presentation. It follows up on the suggestion probably made by the Mexico FBI office.

" In view of subject's suspicious activities you are instructed to instruct an appropriate investigation to ascertain his possible connection with the Associated Metals & Minerals Corporation... and determine whether he is engaged in a violation of existing laws or activities inimical to the welfare of this country"

The FBI Memorandum (#3) dated January 2, 1942, addressed to the Department of State with respect to my application for an exit visa to Mexico, brings Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. squarely into the picture.

" This latter corporation is presently the subject of an Internal Security - G investigation, file..."

"It appears that this memorandum is the first case in which information on the various persons and organizations under investigation is being coordinated. It is the writer's opinion that this memorandum will bear close scrutiny by the Espionage, Internal Security and Neutrality Act Sections."

A second document dated 1/2/42 (#4) is addressed to the Visa Division, State Department. It consists of 8 pages, including one deleted page), and goes into details of my alleged hostile activities, (quoting information from "reliable sources" on activities of Meno Lissauer in Germany, Holland and Brazil, as well as his relationship to Associated Metals & Minerals Corp., the circumstances of his move to Holland in 1937, and of his departure from there to Portugal/Brazil in 1940). This document points out "suspicious" activities ".

I quote

One Kurt Ernest Reinsberg, employed by the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, is presently the subject of an espionage investigation pending in this Bureau.

Among other allegations it states:

"It was reliably and confidentially reported in September 1941, that a certain United States newspaper was attempting to "break" the case of Associated Metals & Minerals Corporation, said to be owned and operated by German Jews and refugees suspected of working for and with the Nazis. It was said that Meno B. Lissauer, and (blanked out) were involved."

The reports speak of "very reliable sources". The bias of the writers as expressed in this and subsequent memoranda provide an interesting insight into the mindset then existing in John Edgar Hoover's organization. Suspicion was clearly based on the following circumstances:

- a) That I was fluent in English German and French was noted repeatedly. In the eyes of the informants any person fluent in languages must be viewed with great suspicion,
- b) That "the YMHA endorsed the Youth Act of 1930" (whatever this Youth Act was, it was evidently not in tune with the FBI 1940 philosophy.)
- c) "That the "United Jewish Appeal" is a "successor of the Joint Distribution Committee, a group alleged to have dealings with Communists". (That surely was a hot piece of intelligence!)
- d) That the United Jewish Appeal was tainted, being an alleged

recipient of aid and support from the Workmen's Circle, a Socialist Jewish Organization (Sounds ominous !) *¹

A letter to Special Agent in Charge, New York (# 5) signed by John Edgar Hoover dated January 17:

Reference: Kurt E. Reinsberg, Espionage (G)
Meno Lissauer, with aliases et al.

not only accuses me of associating with notorious Nazi leaders in Mexico, but also of involvement in nefarious currency transactions. This report includes a fascinating 20 years' historical" review of my employer!

The report states that:

on a trip to Mexico in August 1941" he had brought a substantial amount of American currency with him which he reportedly placed in a safe deposit box in one of the banks in Mexico. While in that country he is known to have associated with notorious Nazi leaders."

"The case on Kurt Ernest Reinsberg is closely related to the pending investigation being conducted in your office and bearing the caption 'Associated Metals & Minerals Corporation,' 'M. Lissauer & Co', was primarily engaged after the abrogation of the Versailles treaty, supplying metal ores to the munitions makers of Germany. Although the owners were Non Aryan they enjoyed singular privileges and were set free from most exchange restrictions. In view of this fact it is requested that preferred attention be given this matter

"It can well be realized that a group of individuals such as the above-captioned and their company could be of assistance to alien interests at this time if they so desired

" It is requested in connection with the enclosed material the files of your office be thoroughly reviewed and that in those instances where derogatory information is available indicating possible action against this country, that it be submitted to the United States Attorney for his consideration in dealing with these aliens."

On February 4, a telegram (# 6) is sent under Hoover's signature to SAC, New York (Special Agent in Charge):

*¹Items b. and c. refers to the 2 organisations
I had named at the September 1939 INS Brownsville hearing

"Requesting immediate presentation of all facts in your possession regarding Reinsberg to United States Attorney **for any action considered desirable**"

On May 18 1942, Hoover goes on to complain to his New York office that a report had not been submitted by April 17, as promised.

"It is my desire that such attention be given this case as will insure the receipt of a report at the Bureau in **the immediate future.**"

On July 21, 1942 the FBI submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury several reports (names are mostly blanked out) regarding Foreign Funds and one report on me. What I find interesting that in this as well as subsequent FBI communications, the reference to me was changed from "Espionage-G" to "Internal Security-G". I wonder why? Was I promoted, (or demoted), from spy to conspirator?

On October 1, 1942 a very official looking 6 page report (# 8) was issued by the New York FBI, mainly a resume of earlier memos on me. (This time my case is classified "Internal Security (G), Alien Enemy Control.") Whoever wrote this report had worked very hard. He had examined the records at the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Ellis Island and established among other facts the date of my arrival in New York as April 16 1933 aboard the s/s Manhattan, and that my passage had been paid for by my father etc. etc.

The report then gives a rehash of my first years in America and details of my travels, particularly after the date when, as all other "enemy aliens", I needed a special permit for every trip to destinations more than 25 miles outside New York City limits.

The writer, or others working for him, interviewed "informants" and learned, for instance, from one source that "I was not believed to be pro Nazi or to have been engaged in subversive activities " Under the heading "Undeveloped Leads" the FBI under signature of Hoover stated

I shall make application to the U.S. Attorney for an executive search warrant".

A ten page report by Special Agent, NY, dated March 9, 1943 gives details of the search of my residence at 949 West End Avenue on February 19, 1943. It furnishes details of the subsequent interview covering my childhood, my schooling, my work and my trips to Mexico. Furthermore it cites the explanation I had given to the interviewers concerning my one visit to Richter, as well as photocopies of the telegram I had received from Associated and of my 1940 letter to Associated reporting on the Richter visit.

This report ends.

"On February 27 the facts in this case were presented to the Assistant United States Attorney, Saul Sharison, who reserved his opinion as to requesting a Presidential warrant pending receipt of instant report"

5 weeks later, on April 1, 1943 SAC NY reports (#9) presumably to Washington, that: "

On March 29 this case was discussed by Special Agent- (Blanked out)-with US Attorney Saul Sharison who **declined to request a presidential warrant** for the reason he does not consider subject dangerous to the internal security of the country as this time."

More than five weeks after the date that I was exonerated by the U.S. Attorney's office, the Washington FBI was still trying to persuade the U.S. Attorney to get me interned!
The date of my examination by the FBI in New York and of my subsequent meeting with the U.S. Attorney, February 27, 1943 represented the end of my problems, as far as I was concerned. At least that is what I thought until I read this documentation

The so-called case of Meno Lissauer is interesting. He, as well as a number of the members of his family and that of his partner, Bruno Griessmann, were indeed escorted to the Spanish border under official German auspices, about 6 months after the German invasion of Holland, and then proceeded to Lisbon to await the issuance of visas to Brazil.

I understand this was result of intervention on their behalf by their Cologne banker, Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Oppenheim, who was quarter Jewish but nevertheless had a relation with the powerful Dr Hjalmar Schacht^{*2}, the Minister of Finance and head of the Reichsbank (The German Central Bank). Sal Oppenheim & Co. one of the largest private banks in Germany had been the lead bankers of the Lissauer group.

.Informants to the FBI must have jumped to the conclusion that since Meno Lissauer and his family were permitted to leave occupied Holland, he, Meno Lissauer, must be involved in nefarious financial and business activities on behalf of the Third Reich, even after emigration.

^{*2} See "Hitler's Banker" Little Brown & Co 1997: "Later he (Hjalmar Schacht) managed to protect certain Jews and to help them as he had helped Bella Fromm " (society columnist of the Berlin Newspaper "Vossische Zeitung")

LATER DEVELOPMENT

In November 1944, I traveled to Australia on military orders on a confidential mission for the US. War Production Board. Very shortly after my return from Australia I was drafted into the Army and served in the U S.Army Air Corps.

On August 24, 1944, the San Antonio FBI office sent a report headed "Kurt E. Reinsberg -Espionage-G" to the FBI in Washington. This report informs Washington that on August 15, 1944, on my entering the United States from Mexico, this time travelling on an American passport - I was returning from my first trip to Mexico after Pearl Harbor- a thorough search had been made of my baggage and personal effects, in accordance with the FBI's letter of instructions dated 11/29/41, with negative results

In other words the Washington office of the FBI had evidently not informed its field offices that my case had been cleared.

On May 18, 1945 a letter (# 10) was written by the FBI to "Blanked Out", in response to a request for available information on" Kurt E. Reinsberg and Associated Metals & Minerals Corp."

Attached to the letter was a 15 page Memorandum which in addition to a rehash of information in earlier reports asserted that Associated Metals & Minerals Corp., and certain persons connected with it in a high capacity, had been the subject of an Internal Security Investigation in the United States.

The Memorandum also reported on a shipment of virgin aluminum by Associated Metals to Argentina, at the order of the Swedish Reserve Supply Board in the value of approximately \$ 50 Million. -This was ridiculous. . I personally handled the sale of this aluminum to Argentina. It had a value of about \$ 50,000. The aluminum was destined to a fabricator of aluminum in Buenos Aires called CAMEA (

owned by the French Pennaroya group). I never heard of the Swedish agency mentioned in this memo.

Sweden indeed had been a steady supplier of iron ores and other strategic goods to the German war industry throughout World War II.

This memo quotes informants reporting that Lissauer and "Blacked Out" were in telegraphic communications with territory held by the Axis powers. More nonsense from "reliable and confidential" sources follows. I refer to the memorandum dated May 16, 1945. (# 10)

On Associated Metals & Minerals the following excerpt is interesting:

"It was reliably reported in August 1940 that the Director General of the British Purchasing Commission keeps a list of firms and persons with whom the Commission does not desire to business for various reasons. It was reported that as of August 1940 the name of "Blacked Out" appeared on this list."

"A different confidential informant has advised that Lissauer was in daily communications with certain of his business interests in Holland so that he is quite certain that Lissauer was attempting to export vital metals to Germany in some manner to evade the British blockade."

"When Holland was overrun by the Germans in May 1940 executives of Oxyde* were still there. Many of the refugees who were bitter towards Oxyde, because of their continued activities with the Germans after the programs, expected German reprisals. Instead the executives were treated courteously and after some negotiations were escorted in September 1940 by the German military police in two cars (party of 11) into unoccupied France without bothering with formalities at the borders.

"It is the consensus of opinion that some concessions were granted by the Oxyde officials which entailed, besides a substantial bribe, probably a promise of further assistance. These Oxyde officials went to Brazil where they organized the Metalora concern with the aid of a loan forwarded by Associated Metals & Minerals Corp. New York."

³"A reliable and confidential source reported that one Kurt Reinsberg, speaking several languages fluently made several trips to Mexico to attempt to buy oil from the Mexican Petroleum Company"

"A confidential and reliable source of information stated that while in Mexico he is known to have associated with persons known to have been notorious Nazi leaders. One of his associates was a person who was the subject of a Neutrality Act investigation in the United States."

*³Oxyde N.V. was the Dutch firm of the Lissauer group. Meno Lissauer, his partner Bruno Griessmann and their families had left Germany for Holland in late 1936.

THIRTY YEARS LATER

A two page Memo, dated October 28, 1974, (#11) from SAC New York to Director FBI has practically everything blanked out. It did show my name, confirmed that I was a US. Citizen and that I had lived in New York continuously since 1937, having been naturalized in February 1944. Incidentally I did not live in New York continuously from 1937 on, since I lived in Mexico during the years 1952 to 1954.

What the meaning of this paper was eludes me. Somebody at the FBI Washington must again have raised some questions about me. At least it seems to me, from studying the few words not blacked out, that at least the old baggage concerning my alleged espionage activities was no longer part of my FBI files.

Under the date of December 9, 1957 a report from the Passport Office to the FBI was issued under the heading :

"Visitors to the Iron Curtain Countries",

A six page memorandum listing earlier passport renewals and listing the countries I had traveled to, was part of this report. Nothing was said therein about earlier allegations and investigations.

I can only presume that my travelling in countries such as Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Cuba and Algeria (I had visited all these on business during that period) may have set off an alarm bell.

COMMENTS

Until I had read the FBI documentation I had not been aware of how very lucky I had been that the District Attorney had prevailed and refused to give in to the request of the FBI Washington office to the District Attorney to issue a presidential warrant for my arrest (and subsequent internment).

Had the FBI succeeded, without a doubt, I would have been placed in the internment camp for undesirable Germans. Fortunately the American judicial system protected me, as the FBI did not have the power to intern a resident alien without a judiciary finding that there was sufficient evidence.

Still the example that thousands of completely innocent Japanese residents and citizens, and their families, were shipped to internment camps for the duration of the war demonstrates that in times of war the judicial safeguards do not always work.

In my case all it needed, for instance, was that during one of my travels, or in New York for that matter, I would have been observed sitting next to a "disloyal person" or that in earlier years I would have been observed in company of communist party members or other suspects. Had I not been able to produce in 1943 from the files of Associated & Minerals Corporation copies of the telegrams sent to me in Mexico and of my letter on stationery of the Hotel Ritz, evidencing beyond any possible doubt, that my one visit to Mr Richter's office in 1940 was entirely innocent, would I have been believed?

On May 18, 1942 a message signed by J Edgar Hoover was sent to Special Agent In Charge, New York, asking for a report to be submitted promptly. This reads in part:

"Reference is made to your teletype dated April 9, 1942 advising that the facts regarding his possible internment as an enemy alien had been presented to the office of the United States Attorney"

In such an event, my life in the internment camp, based on reports as to what happened to those few German Jewish refugees who were interned in this country, would have been very bad, to say the least.

I searched the files of the Scarsdale and of the New York libraries for books describing conditions at American World War II internment camps for German enemy aliens. Eventually I located one book that dealt with the internment of Japanese aliens during World War II. It contained a chapter dealing with the fate of several German Jews interned in North Dakota. The only camp holding "dangerous" German, and Italian enemy aliens was the Fort Lincoln Internment Camp located near Bismarck, North Dakota. The title of the book is:

ENEMIES— World War II Alien Internments."

By John Christgau,

A chapter describes the ordeals of 2 German Jewish refugees, interned at Fort Lincoln in the company of the crews of captured German freighters and of U boats, (the U boaters were known as most rabid Nazis until the bitter end) is quoted in the excerpts attached hereto.

Most "Aryan" German businessmen, journalists and their families had returned to Germany by way of Japan and Siberia before Hitler invaded Russia.)

I also discovered a book describing the actions taken by major international oil companies, in reaction to the nationalization of the Mexican oil properties, titled.

"The Reconquest of Mexico"

by Nathaniel & Sylvia Weyl,

Pages 304 to 307, quoted in the excerpts attached hereto, give a flavor of the extent of the worldwide blockade invoked by the oil companies.

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK

“ENEMIES”

“WORLD WAR II

ALIEN INTERNMENTS”

by JOHN CHRISTAU
Iowa State University Press 1985

Pages 78, 79 and 82

January 22, 2002

"ENEMIES" "WORLD WAR II ALIEN INTERNMENTS"

Preface:

"Whether by virtue of secrecy oaths, or more probably historical oversight, the subject of American enemy camps is an area about which little has been written. As far back as 1798 Congress establishes provisions for the arrest and internment of enemy aliens in the event of war or threatened invasion.

Thus was instituted an Enemy Alien Interment Program which was to span six years from 1941-1946, ultimately imprisoning 31,257 aliens..."

Die Wanderkameraden-Confinements by Hearsay and the Nazi-Jewish Conflict, Pages 78-79 (excerpt):

"Then Heims (a German Jewish internee) was beaten up in the mess hall and Eddie (another German Jewish internee) lost whatever semblance of patience he had.

The incident involved seaman Otto Bernsdorf, who objected to having Jews sitting at his table in the mess hall. On the day of the attack Bernsdorf demanded to know who had given Heims permission to sit there. Heims said that he had been seated there by the steward, but Bernsdorf stepped back and delivered a solid roundhouse slap to the left side of Heims' face.

Bernsdorf received two weeks in solitary confinement in the guardhouse, but some of his shipmates and barrack comrades considered Heims the villain. Since he seldom came out of his barracks to face the ridicule, the seamen took their anger out on Eddie Friedman, "Jew, dirty Jew" they hissed at him when he passed them in the detention area.

In February, before the Heims-Bernsdorf incident, Friedman had written a long desperate letter to the National Refugee Service in New York, telling them about the antisemitic taunts he had been subjected to at Fort Lincoln. What he wanted, he wrote, was for NRS to take up his case with Edward Ennis, director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit. Ennis then wrote to W.F. Kelly in Philadelphia on March 23 and asked him to investigate. Kelly in turn passed the order to McCoy, the camp commander at Fort Lincoln. 4 days later a coded message was sent to Ft. Lincoln from the INS. The instruction was to parole Friedman.

McCoy advised Friedman that he had to delay parole, claiming that the list of sponsors Friedman had submitted was improper. On April 1, McCoy sent W.F. Kelly of the Border Patrol a one page report of his investigation into Friedman's charges of antisemitism at Ft. Lincoln. In the report McCoy wrote unsympathetically:

"They have caused us considerable trouble playing up this persecution complex and as a matter of fact, their entire troubles are brought on by themselves. It is admitted of McCoy concluded the report, "that Jews are in a very unfavorable light and are naturally unpopular with the German detainees"

Page 82 (excerpt)

On July 16, Attorney General Biddle issued a stinging memorandum to J. Edgar Hoover and the Special Defense Unit of the Justice Department, which brought an end to the system of detention lists and danger classifications that had been applied to Dr. Sonnenberg, Wolfgang Thomas, Eddie Friedman and other (German Jewish) enemy aliens.

Biddle explains his actions "The evidence used.. was inadequate, the standards applied to their evidence were defective, the notion that it is possible to make a valid determination of how dangerous a person is, is impractical, unwise, dangerous"

P.S. These Jewish detainees had been arrested and sent to Ft. Lincoln in the weeks following Pearl Harbor, in December 1941 and early 1942. The last of them were paroled and released from Ft. Lincoln in May 1943.

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK

“EXPROPRIATION
OF THE
OIL INDUSTRY”

by Nathaniel & Sylvia Weyl

(Pages 304 to 307)

January 22, 2002

collected once the securities for the national loan had been issued. And there the matter rested.

Meantime, the petroleum trust of the Government was assuming more definite form. Subject to an administrative council of worker and government representatives, the new oil administration was manned from top to bottom with trade unionists, the exceptions being the two company chiefs and a handful of indispensable technicians. Worker-government control entailed maintenance of the old labor-employer relationship. The union retained the contract rights it had wrung from the companies and wage increases amounting to some 500,000 pesos were instituted in the summer of 1938. This, of course, left payrolls 15 to 25 per cent below the labor tribunal award, but then the oil workers had sacrificed little—if Russian experience is to serve as a guide—for the privilege of sharing in the ownership and control of industry. Union leaders resigned their posts to take big administrative jobs at high salaries. The journalistic bodyguard of the oil interests was quick to charge the union leadership with treason to an egalitarian principle it had never professed, and to suggest that the mouse of trade-union avarice had been powerful enough to encompass the destruction of the elephantine petroleum empire.

The oil corporations naturally declared economic war. The international blockade of Mexican oil was enforced. Mexican production was branded as 'stolen goods'; independent buyers were threatened with economic reprisals; tankers (controlled preponderantly by Shell, Standard, and their affiliated interests) were withheld, and Mexico was not permitted to purchase tetraethyl lead, an essential ingredient in the manufacture of high octane gasolines.

By midsummer, the companies had perfected their strategy of legal guerrilla warfare. Whenever Mexican oil cargoes appeared in foreign ports, company representatives would start attachment proceedings, alleging that the oil

was their property and had been purloined by the Mexican Government. French, Swedish, and American courts finally decided against the companies, since it is a well-understood legal principle that individuals cannot sue a government in foreign courts without its consent. Although the bulk of these actions were unsuccessful, they harassed buyers and delayed delivery.

A more serious weapon was the use of secondary boycott action. In early 1939, the Eastern States Petroleum Company, an American organization that had engaged in extensive transactions with the Mexican petroleum trust, secured an injunction in the U.S. federal courts restraining Shell interests from interfering with the transportation or sale of Mexican oil and using 'threats or commands' to prevent other companies from purchasing from the plaintiff. Eastern States brought suit under the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust laws for \$1,500,000 against the Shell group. The loss of American exports to Mexico is at least partially owing to the actions of the oil corporations. In an open letter to Representative Martin J. Kennedy, Clarence Senior presents the following facts: The Ohio Steel Foundry Company refused an order of the Mexican Petroleum Administration for refinery tubes. Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation declined a \$10,977 offer for pumps and parts. Aluminum Company of America and four other concerns refused a \$19,000 order for fractionating towers. Babcock and Wilcox were not interested in selling \$21,000 worth of caldrons. About a dozen large concerns rejected Mexican orders of a similar nature. One company divulged that it could not fill the order because it supplied Águila Oil Company. The majority of the concerns, however, were reticent as to their motives for refusing business at a time when American heavy industry was in the doldrums. United States concerns thus threw themselves out of a profitable foreign market.

This widely ramified campaign was to force Mexico into

extensive barter dealings with the fascist powers. Unwilling to commit suicide on behalf of a principle that nobody else observed, Gárdenas authorized extensive barter deals with Germany and, to a lesser extent, Italy and Japan. The stately *New York Times* published articles to the effect that Mexico was drifting into an economic alliance with the fascist triumvirate which might eventuate in political alliance. The sudden concern of American business over Mexico's dealings with the fascist powers was motivated by fear that domestic corporations would lose their preponderant share of the lucrative totalitarian markets. R.B.Kahle, President of Eastern States Petroleum Company, declared:

The three chief sources of supply for the Italian Navy are the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the Shell Oil and ourselves . . . Mexico and Eastern sell only 10 per cent of the oil bought by the fascist powers. The remainder is sold by the highly respectable American and British companies . . . The only difference is that Standard refines its oil in Aruba, the Shell in Curaçao, while we refine ours in the United States.

A month after expropriation, William Rhodes Davis appeared in Mexico City. Like most of the independent oil promoters who arrived to profit from the Mexican impasse, Davis was a bizarre character; unlike most of his colleagues, he had capital, marketing connections, and great financial talents. This former Alabama circus boy made over a million dollars in the oil industry, and then lost most of his fortune in a strange scheme to build a Trans-Andean railroad for the Peruvian Government and colonize the interior region with Swedes. Returning to the oil business, he acquired more millions. When Schacht began devising Germany's amazingly intricate and successful monetary system, staid American bankers expounded its inherent theoretical fallacies, while Davis studied it. Thus at the time of his arrival in Mexico, he possessed a refinery in Hamburg, a marketing

organization in Scandinavia, ramified interests in Ireland and the United States, and the good will of the Reich Government. Davis' Mexican subsidiary, Sabalo Transportation Company, had been confiscated along with the rest of the foreign companies, but sentiment was not to stand in the way of commercial opportunity. He issued a few statements to the American press to the effect that he was dealing only in royalty oil, but when the possibilities of the situation unfolded, this defensive coloration was imperceptibly dropped. In 1938, Davis moved approximately 60 per cent of all the oil Mexico exported, selling the bulk of the product at cut-rate prices to Germany. While the British Government was drafting its denunciatory notes, Davis was transshipping millions of barrels of Mexican oil via British ports.

The policy of the petroleum companies drove Mexico into the arms of Germany. On December 8, 1938, *New York Times* correspondent Kluckhohn reported that Mexico had concluded a deal to barter \$17,000,000 worth of crude oil for German heavy machinery and equipment. Mexican oil was being exchanged for Italian tankers, German rayon, and newsprint. American businessmen complained that the oil industry's war against Mexico was costing United States machinery concerns millions of dollars worth of business. Far more serious was the fact that this policy might gear the Mexican refining industry to German machinery, and that follow-up and replacement orders, totalling several times as much as the original purchases, might go to the Reich. Something similar happened when American business refused to extend credits to Soviet Russia, but advanced money to Germany at low interest rates, which the Reich reloaned to the U.S.S.R. Needing German credits, the Soviet Union was compelled to buy German steel mills at fancy prices, leaving American heavy industry stranded. This process was slowly being repeated in Mexico.

IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

RECORD OF HEARING IN
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

JULY 2, 1941

8 Pages

January 22, 2002



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

CO 2.12-C
CO 920134

425 Eye Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20536

SEP 29 1993

Kurt E. Reinsberg
58 Mamaroneck Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583-2824

Dear Mr. Reinsberg:

This is in response to your Privacy Act (PA) request dated December 29, 1991 for access to records concerning yourself and those documents relating to an investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) from 1938-1944.

Enclosed are two documents consisting of seven pages, which we are releasing to you in their entirety. We also located two documents, consisting of two pages, which either originated with another Federal government agency or consisted of information furnished by that agency. We have referred these documents to the appropriate office for review and direct response to you. Another document, consisting of nine pages, was sent to four other Federal agencies for consultation since it contained information originating outside our agency. We will advise you of the final determination on this document as soon as we receive their responses.

Sincerely,

for *Maгда S. Ortiz*
Maгда S. Ortiz
Chief, FOIA/PA Section

Enclosures

TO REC.

Form 511
U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| NAMES OF ALIENS | RECORD OF HEARING |
| KURT KIRST KIRSBERG | before a |
| Male, age 26 years | BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY |
| Nationality: Germany | held at |
| Race: Hebrew | Brownsville, Texas |
| ADMITTED | Date: July 2, 1941 |
| | PRESENT: Insp. Perry W. Steele, Chairman Wm. L. Pettillo, Member Irishman Rosado, Member & Secy. |

Manifest No. A-2
S.S.I. No. 4913 -- XI MA I
Arrived (date and manner): Brownsville Municipal Airport, Plane N.C.
26444 of P.A.A. - July 2, 1941
Held by: O. E. Regel Cause: LPT

KURT KIRST KIRSBERG: Sex, age, race and nationality as shown above; alone; Section 4-b; born Brussels, Belgium; single; occupation, ore and oil; literate; language or occupation, Eng. and German; last permanent residence, 949 West End Ave., New York City; name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence applicant came, C. Lee Reynolds, Export Mgr., Petrolite Matco, Mexico City, Mexico; never in U.S., yes, from 4/16/37 to 5/16/41 at New York City; passage paid by self; destination and name and address of relative or friend to join there, New York City, c/o father, Lehmann Reinsberg, 949 West End Avenue; money shown, \$100.00; never arrested and deported, or excluded from admission; purpose in coming and time remaining, resume residence.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Height 5'8"; complexion medium; hair black; eyes brown.

MARKS: None.

HEALTH: Examining surgeon not available.

CHAIRMAN TO APPLICANT:

2 You are advised that the object of these proceedings is to determine your right of admissibility to the United States and that according to the immigration laws the burden of proof rests upon you to show the you are not subject to exclusion under any provision of the immigration law. You are further informed that you have the right to have present during this hearing a relative or friend, under certain conditions. (Such conditions explained.) Do you wish to avail yourself of this privilege?

A No.

EX-117
-1

KURT ERNST REINBERG, being duly sworn, testified as follows in the English language:

Q State your name, age and occupation.

A Kurt Ernst Reinberg, age 24, buyer of metals and oil products for Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 East 42nd Street, New York City.

Q Did you truthfully answer all questions asked you by the Primary Inspector as shown on your manifest?

A Yes.

Q What is your race and nationality?

A Hebrew race, German nationality.

Q Why are you applying for admission to the United States today?

A I have my residence in the United States and I wish to return to my residence. I want to Mexico on a business trip.

Q State the place and date of your birth.

A Brussels, Belgium, November 8, 1910.

Q If you were born in Belgium, how is it that you are a citizen of Germany?

A My parents were German nationality. Through my parents I am a German. I lived in Germany and I had to get a passport when I was 18 years old.

Q Do you have a passport or other official document in the nature of a passport showing your origin and identity?

A Yes.

NOTE: Presents German passport No. 2810 issued at the German Consulate, New York, July 18, 1940 and valid to July 18, 1941; and re-entry permit No. 1326589 issued to Kurt Ernst Reinberg, valid to April 22, 1942.

Q Have you been admitted through this port on previous occasions?

A Yes, several times, and some are noted on the passport.

NOTE: Passport shows admission at Brownsville, Texas, December 22, 1940, re-entry permit No. 1312525; and again March 9, 1941, re-entry permit No. 1316265.

Q What was the occasion of these trips to Mexico?

A Business trips.

Q Where did you go?

A To Mexico City and various parts of Mexico.

Q For what purpose?

A To buy minerals and petroleum products.

Q Do you buy gold?

A No.

Q Enumerate the minerals that you purchase?

A Zinc ore, antimony ore.

Q What do you do with these cows?
A Ship them to the United States.

Q Through what ports?
A Through El Paso and shipped at Tampico.

Q What kind of arrangement do you have with the Mexican Government for entry into Mexico?
A I have Mexican Immigration Form 8.

NOTE: Presents Mexican Immigration Form No. 3277010 issued January 18, 1941 by the Mexican Consulate in New York, valid to August 3, 1941.

Q What is your marital status?
A I am single and have never been married.

Q Are your parents living?
A Yes, they live with me.

Q State your father's name, birthplace and nationality.
A Lehmann Reinsberg, Elsdor Marsberg, Westfalia, Germany, citizen of Germany.

Q State your mother's name, birthplace and nationality.
A Clara Reinsberg, Glindeheim, Hesse, Germany, citizen of Germany.

Q Did either of your parents ever take steps to become citizens of a country other than Germany?
A No, but they both have taken out first papers.

Q Where did they make application?
A In New York. I received my first papers on 16th of July, 1927 and my parents received theirs three months after their arrival, sometime during 1929.

Q Where do your parents live now?
A They live with me at 949 East End Avenue, New York City.

Q Is your father engaged in business?
A He is a farrier. He does some repair work in his own apartment.

Q Does he work for a company?
A No. He works for himself. He has no regular employment.

Q Have you any brothers or sisters?
A No.

Q You are the only child?
A Yes.

Q In what year and through what port did you first enter the United States?
A In 1927 on April 16 at New York. I arrived on the S. Manhattan.

NOTE: Passport shows quota visa No. 108 issued under Belgian quota,
February 2, 1937; immigrant identification card No. 66287.

Q Were your parents admitted here at that same time?

A My parents arrived in June, 1933 on the S. S. Rotterdam.

Q Do you have any relatives in Germany?

A Only second cousins.

Q Do you have any relatives in Belgium?

A All cousins.

Q Do you have relatives in the United States other than your mother and father?

A My uncle, Dr. Karl Reinsberg, 8 Orchard Street, Mahwah, New York. He is a medical doctor. He is a citizen of Germany and never been naturalized. He arrived after me.

Q Are you a member of any social clubs, lodges, or any other organizations?

A Young Men's Hebrew Association of New York. I was a member of some lodge but I don't know the name of it. It is a Jewish lodge.

Q Are you a member of any other organizations of any kind - scientific organizations?

A No.

Q Do you belong to any political groups?

A United Jewish Appeal. It collects for refugees.

Q Are you a member of the Nazi organization?

A No.

Q Have you ever been a member of it?

A No, neither Communist or Socialist.

Q While you were living in Germany did you belong to any of the German youth organizations?

A No. I once belonged to a hiking organization called Kameraden. That was when I was about fifteen years old.

Q Was it affiliated in any way with the Nazi organization?

A No. It was a Jewish organization. Something like the Boy Scouts.

Q Do you have any relatives in France?

A Just cousins and uncles in Belgium, Germany and France.

Q If you were approached by an agent of the German Government and he were to threaten to injure in any way your relatives in land that is occupied by Germany to cause you to act as a spy or as a saboteur agent or in some subversive manner, what would you do?

A I would report him to the police.

Q Would you permit this agent to inflict punishment on your people?
A They are not close enough relatives to worry me.

Q How long have you been associated with the company that employs you now?
A I arrived on the 16th of April and I started to work on the 20th.

Q Were you employed by them in Germany?
A No. The company I was employed by in Germany was in the same business and I was recommended.

Q Is there any connection with that company?
A That was a Jewish Company and was dissolved.

Q Was there any relationship between the businesses?
A At that time there was.

Q What was the relationship?
A Originally the Associated Metals Company was a subsidiary of that company.

Q What was the name of that company in Germany?
A M. Lissner and Company. It was a partnership and they owned stock in Associated Metals. Now the partnership has been dissolved. One of the partners is in the United States and one is in Rio.

Q You say you buy metals and oils in Mexico. What companies or individuals do you call on to make these purchases?
A Petrolitos Mexicanos, 84 Avenida Juarez, Mexico City, Mexico. Carlos
Raymond is export manager. Exportadores Metales, Mexico City, P.
Mexico; Fundidora de Acero y Hierro, Monterrey, N. L., Mexico; Petrol
Mining Company, Chihuahua, Chih., Mexico.

Q Do you call on any German companies or individuals?
A No.

Q Do you ship to any country occupied by Germany or to Japan or to Italy?
A No ship to Japan from the United States and we have done business with Japan from the United States but not from Mexico. Everything we buy in Mexico has been shipped to the United States with the exception of small lots shipped to Argentina.

Q Have you registered under the Alien Registration Act of 1940?
A Yes.

NOTE: Presents Alien Registration receipt No. 2308451 issued to Kurt B. Reinberg, 640 W. End Ave., New York City, N.Y.

Q Have you registered under the Selective Training and Service Act?
A Yes.

NOTE: Presents registration certificate issued to Kurt Ernst Reinberg, 640 W. End Ave., New York, November 18, 1940. Also presents card for

registrant to depart from the United States issued by Local Board No. 34, Hotel Broadmoor, 225 W. 102nd Street, New York to Kurt Ernst Reinsberg, Order No. 277A, Serial No. 2837, Class III, Division A, for permission to remain abroad until July 19, 1941; countries to be visited, Mexico City, Mexico; nature of business, Metal and ore buying.

Q Have you understood all the questions?
A Yes.

Q Have you anything further to say?
A No.

CHAIRMAN TO BOARD MEMBERS:

Q Have the Board Members any further questions to ask the applicant?
A (Both) No.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

The applicant, Kurt Ernst Reinsberg, Hebrew race, appears to be a native of Belgium but a citizen of Germany through his parents. He is applying for admission to return to his unrelinquished residence. He is in possession of valid German passport No. 2117 and valid re-entry permit No. 1829889. There appears to be no reason to believe he is a person likely to become a public charge.

CHAIRMAN: I move that the applicant, Kurt Ernst Reinsberg, be ADMITTED.
Mr. L. Pattillo: I second the motion.
Madame Beecher: I make it unanimous.

ADMITTED

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript of my notes in this case.

Lillian Beecher - Stenographer.

(COPIED HERE)

U. S. A. made 225 2/12/41

518 62 51

Mem. 10823
Pg.
Typed 3

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Immigration and Naturalization Service
70 Columbus Avenue
New York 23, N. Y.

File No.
A.N.P.U.
1070-204570
RM

October 7, 1945

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Courthouse, Foley Square
New York, New York

The person named hereunder, who has furnished information concerning himself as follows, has filed a petition for naturalization which may be calendared for final hearing in the near future.

Name: **Sam Ernest Seidberg**

Present Address: **645 West End Ave., New York City**

Former Address: **200 E. 40th St., RD 2, 70th St., 225 Riverside Dr., New York City, 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.**

Place and Date of Birth: **Brussels, Belgium Nov. 5, 1916**

Date of Arrival in United States: **April 14, 1939**

Occupations: **See Buyer**

Name and Address of Last Employer, Associated
Hotel and Cafe May., 25 Avenue Porter St., N.Y.C.

It is requested that you advise this office what, if anything, your records disclose bearing upon this person's loyalty to the United States or which may have a bearing upon his eligibility to become naturalized. Will you please advise your interests, if any, concerning the person named and whether or not any investigation by this Service will interfere with any action contemplated by you.

If the files of this office disclose any information indicating subversive activities on the part of the alien named or pro-Nazi sympathies, it will be furnished in the space hereunder.

Your response indicates a spot check is contemplated. Kindly furnish us with further details.

ALL-ENEMY REGISTRATION
MARSHALL MARSHLEY

Do not
OBJECTION IF
YOU INVESTIGATE

W. F. WATKINS
District Director

By *L. W. Throckmorton*
L. W. Throckmorton
Chief, Naturalization Petitions Section
Federal Bureau of Investigation

NO OBJECTION IF
YOU INVESTIGATE

“FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION”

Cover Letter
And
27 Selected Pages of
92 Page Documentation

January 22, 2002



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

DEC 11 1996

Mr. Kurt E. Reinsberg
58 Mamaroneck Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Kurt E. Reinaberg

Subject of Request:

FOIPA No. 355256 190-HQ-1033900

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552Section 552a☒ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☒ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☒ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3) _____☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

(See Form 4-694a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 92 pages(s) were reviewed and 85 page(s) are being released.

During the review of material pertinent to the subject of your request, documents were located which

☒ originated with another Government agency(ies).

These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

☒ contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☐ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☐ (b)(7)(D)

☐ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

□ (j)(2)

 $\square(k)(l)$

□ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

□ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. The subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

- ☐ For your information: _____

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-19512-3X³ (Doc. dated 1/2/42)

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X  DELETED PAGE(S)  X
XNO DUPLICATION FEE X
X   FOR THIS PAGE   X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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FBI/DOJ

- ☒ If you desire, you may appeal any denials contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530, within thirty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.
- ☒ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject of your request was the subject of the investigation. There are additional references to the subject(s) of your request in files relating to other individuals, organizations, events or activities. These additional mentions or references have not been reviewed to determine if, in fact, they are identifiable with the subject(s) of your request. Our experience has shown that such references are frequently similar to information contained in the processed main file(s). We will process these references if you now make a specific request for them. However, because of a significant increase in FOIPA requests and an expanding backlog, we have given priority to the processing of main investigative files and can only complete the processing of these additional references as time and resources permit.
- ☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

J. Kevin O'Brien

Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Information Resources Division

Enclosures (2)

Included in the enclosed documents is that material which was referred to the FBI by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

To minimize costs to both you and the FBI, extra file copies of the same document, if any, were not processed except where they contain additional information responsive to your request.

Mexico D. F.
October 2, 1941.

MEMORANDUM

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

b7c

RE: K. E. REINSBERG,
Espionage - C.

This individual who claims to be a Belgian and who speaks English, German, and French fluently has been making trips to Mexico during the past three months attempting to purchase oil from the Mexican Petroleum Co. He claims to be a partner in the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York City. He also states that his company is interested in buying Mexican metals and that his company has already acquired some mining properties in Mexico. Upon his last trip to Mexico, about four or five weeks ago, he is reported to have brought a substantial sum of American currency with him which he is alleged to have placed in a safety deposit box in one of the banks in Mexico. While in Mexico he is known to have associated with persons known to be notorious Nazi leaders. One of his associates is [redacted] who has been reported by the writer. REINSBERG is now supposed to be in New York but contemplates returning to Mexico in the near future. It is suggested that his business connections in New York be checked especially the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation at 40 Rector Street, New York City.

X-78.

RECORDED

CH-23

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100-19512 -

November 29, 1941

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Re: KURT ERNST REINSBERG;
ESPIONAGE - R

Dear Sir:

Information has been received from a generally reliable but highly confidential source that Kurt Ernst Reinsberg, who claims to be a Belgian, speaks English, German and French fluently, has been making trips to Mexico during the past three months in an effort to purchase oil from the Mexican Petroleum Company. He claims to be a partner in the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York City, and alleges that his company is interested in buying Mexican metals.

During Reinsberg's last trip to Mexico about September 1, 1941, he is reported to have brought a substantial sum of American currency with him which was placed in a safety deposit box in one of the banks in Mexico. In that country he is known to have associated with persons reputed to be notorious Nazi leaders, including

On April 7, 1941, the San Antonio Office submitted to the Bureau a report received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of that district reflecting subject to be a Jew of German nationality. At that time he was twenty-four years old and carried with him German passport No. 2810 which was valid to July 17, 1941, and presented a Reentry permit No. 1316268 issued January 4, 1941, which permit is valid until January 4, 1942. The file further reflects this subject previously entered the United States at Brownsville, Texas, on February 21, 1936, and has made several trips between this country and Mexico. At the time of his entry on March 9, 1941, he gave his place of residence as 946 West End Avenue, New York City, where he claimed to reside with his father. He indicated that he had been living at that address since September, 1937.

2

100-19512

November 28, 1941

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 [REDACTED]
10-6-93

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Berle:

This Bureau is interested in obtaining information concerning Kurt Ernst Reinsberg, a German who has been making frequent trips between New York and Mexico. He claims to represent the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York City, and has in his possession German passport No. 2810 which is valid to July 17, 1941. At the time of his last known entry to this country at Brownsville, Texas, he presented Reentry permit No. 1316268 issued January 4, 1941, and valid to January 4, 1942.

This person is described as being twenty-four years of age and a resident of New York City. He gives his address as 809 West End Avenue, New York.

It would be appreciated if you would make any information which you may have concerning this individual available to me.

Sincerely yours,

RECORDED

100-19512-3

30930

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

RECEIVED NOV 29 1941
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]

RE: KURT ERNEST REINSBERG
Exit Permit Applicant

This memorandum is to advise you that one Kurt Ernest Reinsberg, subject of file #65-38329, has applied to the Secretary of State for an exit permit entitling him to make a business trip into Mexico. Reinsberg stated in his exit permit application that he wished to leave for Mexico as soon as possible.

Reinsberg is also the subject of file #100-19512, which consists to date of a letter written to the Special Agent in Charge, New York, New York, on November 29, 1941, re Kurt Ernest Reinsberg, Espionage - G, requesting an investigation of this person and his affiliation with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York. This latter corporation is presently the subject of an Internal Security - G investigation, file #100-16122.

The original information on Reinsberg contained in file #65-38329 alleged, among other things, that he has been associating with a [REDACTED], said to have previously been reported upon by confidential informant [REDACTED] in-

vestigation. A search has indicated that there was a file [REDACTED], reported to be making sales of metals in Mexico, some of which metals may be going to Germany.

Considerable derogatory information has been assembled on Kurt Ernest Reinsberg and associated persons and organizations and is being reported in the memorandum to the State Department. One copy of this memorandum is also being sent to each of the above-mentioned [REDACTED] memorandum itself, together with considerable information submitted by Reinsberg and a picture of Reinsberg, may be found in file #40-22416. It appears that this memorandum

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/21/81 BY [REDACTED]

COPIES DESTROYED 5-21-58 R226

3

1 ENCL.

COPIES FILE

Let to NY 1-15-42

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Memorandum for [REDACTED]

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is the first case in which information on the various persons and organizations under investigation has been coordinated. It is the writer's opinion that this memorandum will bear close scrutiny by the Espionage, Internal Security and Neutrality Act Sections.

Supervisors [REDACTED]

have been telephonically advised of the pertinent facts in this matter. Copies of the instant memorandum are being distributed for [REDACTED]

Future inquiries from the State Department concerning Reinsberg will be referred to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

b7c

- # 3

January 8, 1943

b7c

TO: VISA DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

In connection with the below entitled visa applicant case the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflect the following information.

Very truly yours,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

TITLE: KURT ERNEST REINSBERG—
Exit Permit Applicant

ATTENTION:

MI.; M. LISSAUER
AND CIE.; ASSOCIATED METALS
AND MINERALS CORPORATION;

I.M.E.A.; UNITED JEWISH
APPEAL; ISACHAR BERNSTEIN
SOCIETY

Associated Persons
and Organizations
Passports and Visas

KURT ERNEST REINSBERG
929 Westend Avenue
New York, New York
Exit Permit Applicant

One Kurt Ernest Reineberg, employed by the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York, is presently the subject of an espionage investigation pending in this Bureau.

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100-19512-3x

A reliable and confidential source recently reported that one Kurt Ernest Reinsberg, who claims to be a Belgian and who speaks English, German and French fluently, has been making trips to Mexico during the past three months attempting to purchase oil from the Mexican Petroleum Company. He claims to be a partner in the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York. He also states that his company is interested in buying Mexican metals, and that his company has already acquired some mining properties in Mexico.

A confidential and reliable source of information said that in Reinsberg's last trip to Mexico he is reported to have brought a substantial sum of American currency with him, which he is alleged to have placed in a safety deposit box in one of the banks of Mexico. While in Mexico he is known to have associated with persons known to be notorious Nazi leaders. One of his associates is a certain person who is presently the subject of a Neutrality Act investigation in this Bureau.

It is reliably reported that on November 14, 1940, one Kurt Ernest Reinsberg, buyer and general office employee for Associated Metals and Minerals, Incorporated, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York, reentered the United States at El Paso, Texas. Reinsberg stated he had been in Mexico on business for his company, dealing principally with the Potosi Mining Company, Chihuahua, Mexico, and Petroleos Mexicanos, Mexico, D. F., Mexico.

See information set out below on Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York

[REDACTED] b7c
Associated Metals and Minerals Corp.
40 Rector Street
New York, New York

It was reliably reported in August, 1940, that the Director General of the British Purchasing Commission keeps a list of firms and persons with whom the Commission has had unsatisfactory dealings or with whom the Commission does not desire to do business for various reasons. It was reported that as of August, 1940, the name of [REDACTED] appears on this list. b7c

Vice Division, Department of State

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For additional information on Dr. Meno Lissauer see the information set out below on the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York.

ASSOCIATED METALS AND MINERALS CORPORATION
40 Rector Street
New York, New York

The Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York, and certain persons connected with that firm in a high capacity are presently the subjects of an Internal Security investigation pending in this Bureau.

It was reliably reported in November, 1941, that the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation is one hundred percent owned by M. Lissauer and Company of Cologne, Germany. Reliable and confidential sources indicate from financial transactions that Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation has numerous foreign transactions consisting of exports of steel to South America.

It was reliably reported in November, 1941, that one [redacted] has stated that one Meno Lissauer is "connected" with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation but refused to furnish additional information. It was also stated that Lissauer's personal account in a New York bank was opened subsequent to the blocking of accounts on June 4, 1941. A reliable and confidential source reported at the same time that a judgment has been filed against Lissauer in Richmond County, New York, by a person who alleges that the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation breached a contract made with him in regard to certain dealings with the El Potosi Mining Company in Mexico. It was also reliably reported in November, 1941, that a person who has had dealings with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation and with Meno Lissauer made a number of libelous remarks concerning Lissauer, and stated that he could prove the substance of all the remarks if called upon to do so.

b7c

It was reliably reported in November, 1940, that as of June, 1941, the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation owed some \$200,000 to a certain corporation in Amsterdam, Holland. It was also reported that a certain company in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was a wholly owned subsidiary of the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation and that, on January 10,

1940, the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation handled a transaction in virgin aluminum in the amount of \$50,180,408. This aluminum was shipped on the S.S. Cimneran by order of the Swedish Reserve Supply Board, Stockholm, Sweden. Receipts for this aluminum were delivered to Furness-Withy and Company, New York, New York.

It is noted from the above information that one Memo Lissauer appears to be closely affiliated with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation. A reliable and confidential informant advised in February, 1941, that Dr. Memo Lissauer and wife left Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the United States, using American immigration visas. The informant advised that Lissauer had been in telephonic communication with Germany during his few months' stay in Brazil, and that Lissauer stated that he had emigrated from Germany in 1937 to the Netherlands, where he resided until he left for Brazil in the autumn of 1940. The informant suggested the presumption that Lissauer's manganese business is of as much interest to Germany as to the United States.

A different confidential informant has advised that Memo Lissauer recently arrived in the United States from Holland, where he had been treated royally by the Nazis for help given to them. The informant also advised that Lissauer is in daily communication with certain of his business interests in Holland so that he is quite certain that Lissauer is attempting to export vital metals to Germany in some manner in order to evade the British blockade.

A separate confidential informant, commenting on Memo Lissauer in February, 1941, stated that Lissauer and [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] The informant stated that these persons were still in telegraphic communication with territory held by the Axis powers, having connections with Lissauer and Company, Cologne; [REDACTED] Amsterdam; Leopold Lazarus, Limited, London; and Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, New York, New York. The informant further advised that communications addressed to Lissauer by the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation show that the latter company has sent funds through a New York bank to Rio (presumably Rio de Janeiro) to pay for visas for Lissauer and others.

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Information was received from a reliable and confidential source on May 12, 1941, in which it was stated that Meno Liesauer arrived in New York, New York, within the past few months from Rotterdam, Holland, and that Liesauer reportedly had left Holland in a military car furnished by the Nazis, in view of the assistance Liesauer had been to the German Government. It was stated by a confidential source that the Consul in Rotterdam originally refused to grant Liesauer a visa. The informant appeared quite certain that Liesauer was undoubtedly attempting to export vital metals from this country to Germany in some manner in order to evade the British blockade. The Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, with which these individuals are affiliated, is reported to be engaged in the handling of ores, refined metals, scrap copper, zinc, lead and tin, in addition to chemical derivatives. In addition to its regular business in non-ferrous metals the Corporation in the past two years purchased and liquidated industrial plants.

Information from a reliable and confidential source, on February 25, 1941, reflected the following information concerning Meno Liesauer and the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation:

Dr. Meno Liesauer wrote to [redacted] of the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation that [redacted] Associated Metals and Minerals [redacted] and a certain [redacted] were apparently to be the participants in a new firm to be opened in Buenos Aires, very likely under the name of "Montana" (to which might be added the title, Association for the Utilization of Ore, Metals and Chemical Products).

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Apparently the founders of this firm were to be American and not German. Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation wrote to Meno Liesauer that "all the really big business is done by [redacted] who does not talk much". They add that Mexico is a promising business center.

The reliable and confidential source of information said the following: "An interesting connection is shown in a letter dated December 13 (40?) from Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation to [redacted] which says: 'Don't be afraid that Mitsubishi will double cross us in the negotiations with Gueirce. They are a true friend of ours.'"

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The confidential source of information said further, "Finally there is a most interesting communication from the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation to [REDACTED] which, however, does not directly bear on Mano Lissauer or [REDACTED]. It says that [REDACTED] had learned about two hundred million dollars of frozen Norwegian assets in the United States which are to be released and used in industries concerned in the United States armament program. In a few days an option is to be taken on a ship building plant near Bridgeport, Connecticut. [REDACTED] is working with the committee and our suggestion to interest them in the Hoe's yard in Philadelphia was accepted. The plan of Associated Metals and Minerals, in part at least, seems to be to buy up and lease properties and call or re-lease them to the Norwegian interests."

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From a reliable and confidential source it has been determined that in the spring of 1941 one [REDACTED] was in communication with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation [REDACTED]

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It was reliably and confidentially reported in September, 1941, that a certain large United States newspaper was attempting to "break" the case of Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York, New York, said to be owned and operated by German Jews and refugees suspected of working for and with the Nazis. It was said that Mano B. Lissauer, [REDACTED] were involved.

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Y.M.E.A.

It is reported that the Youth Division of the Y.M.E.A. attended a January 6, 1939, meeting in Washington, D. C., held by the American Congress for Peace and Democracy.

It was reliably reported that the American Youth Act, which in 1936 was being pushed as a "must" by the American Youth Congress, was endorsed by the Y.M.E.A.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

It is reported that the United Jewish Appeal in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has succeeded the Joint Distribution Committee, a group alleged to have dealings with Communists, and

Visa Division, Department of State

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particularly with an official of the "State of Affairs", a bi-weekly news letter published by, or associated with, the "Yanks Are Not Coming Committee".

Information was received on April 26, 1941, that the United Jewish Appeal is listed in a book entitled "Forty Years Workmen's Circle" as having constantly received aid and support from the Workmen's Circle, reportedly a Socialist Jewish organization, which described itself as one "which should unite by a link of friendship every worker in the land and with many links unite the workers of every land".

Form AD-1 is being returned herewith.

4

100-11872-

January 17, 1942

b7c

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: KURT ERNEST REINSBERG
ESPIONAGE (C)

LEMO LIESSAUER, with aliases, et al;
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

In the past your office has been furnished with information regarding K. E. Reinsberg, who is apparently identical with Kurt Ernest Reinsberg mentioned in the above caption.

K. E. Reinsberg claims to be a Belgian who, during October, 1941, was reported as making numerous trips to Mexico. During the preceding three months he attempted to purchase oil from the Mexican Petroleum Company, and in these negotiations claimed to be a partner in the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Bester Street, New York City. He indicated that his company was interested in buying Mexican metals, and has already acquired mining properties in Mexico.

Upon his last trip to Mexico, approximately five weeks preceding October 1, 1941, he brought a substantial sum of American currency with him which he reportedly placed in a safety deposit box in one of the banks in Mexico. While in that country he is known to have associated with notorious Nazi leaders. One of his associates was [REDACTED]

Recently Kurt Ernest Reinsberg made an application for an exit permit at which time he listed numerous sponsors and references. In accordance with the procedure followed by the Alien Control Division of the Department of State, the material contained in the files of the Bureau was summarized both with respect to Reinsberg and all other persons who lent their names as sponsors for his exit permit.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Pennington _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

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MAILED 10 1942
JAN 20 1942
JAN 20 1942

COPIES DESTROYED

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For your full information in this regard, there are attached hereto copies of this summary memorandum dated January 2, 1942, and addressed to the Visa Division of the Department of State. Because of the voluminous material available and the derogatory nature of much of this information, this case was brought specifically to the attention of the Visa Division, and it is understood that Reinsberg will not be issued an exit permit.

Whether because of his ignorance of immigration matters, or because of the fact that the date of expiration is near, Reinsberg was not aware of the fact that no exit permit was needed by him since he was in the possession of re-entry permit number 1363603 issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service presumably at New York City.

* The case on Kurt Ernest Reinsberg is closely related to the pending investigation being conducted in your office and bearing the caption Meno Lissauer, with aliases M. Lissauer, Dr. Meno Lissauer; Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation; Internal Security C. It will be noted that Meno Lissauer and Kurt Ernest Reinsberg are apparently both enemy aliens presently in the United States, and it is quite possible that many of the individuals affiliated with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation are also aliens.

It is requested that in connection with the enclosed material the files of your office be thoroughly reviewed and that in those instances where derogatory information is available indicating possible actions against this country, that it be submitted to the United States Attorney for his consideration in dealing with these aliens. It is also requested that the pertinent facts available be submitted to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, with a view to have the re-entry permit in the possession of Reinsberg invalidated in view of his enemy alien status. You may also wish to take such action as is deemed appropriate to determine that the aliens affiliated with the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation are abiding by the provisions of the recent Presidential Proclamations on the restriction of the movement of enemy aliens and the possession of contraband by them.

It can well be realized that a group of individuals such as the above-captioned subjects and their company could be of assistance to alien interests at this time if they so desired. In view of this fact it is requested that preferred attention be given this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

5
Enclosures

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

100-19512

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

FEBRUARY 4, 1942

Transmit the following message to.

SAC, NEW YORK

CC-160

b7c

KURT ERNEST REINBERG, ESPIONAGE-G. RELET JANUARY
SEVENTEENTH LAST, REQUEST IMMEDIATE PRESENTATION OF ALL FACTS
IN YOUR POSSESSION REGARDING REINBERG TO UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
FOR ANY ACTION CONSIDERED DESIRABLE. SUBJECT CONTINUING EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMIT. SUBMIT RESULTS TELEGRAPHICALLY.

HOOVER

6

Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

942

RECORDED

100-11513-5

SP4

10/17/25

10/17/25

10/17/25

10/17/25

10/17/25

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, N. Y.**

NY FILE NO. 100-12515

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, N. Y. | DATE WHEN MADE 10/1/42 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/20, 22, 6/15, 8/7, 9/23/42 | REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] |
| TITLE KURT ERNST REINBERG | | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C) ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Subject entered U.S. at Port of New York 4/16/37 aboard SS MANHATTAN; last permanent residence was Cologne, Germany, and he indicated he is German citizen, of Hebrew race. Subject filed declaration of intention #261503 in SDNY on 7/16/37. Subject revealed on application for certificate of identification as enemy alien that he was born in Brussels, Belgium, but did not reside there long enough to become Belgian citizen. Subject indicated he is in charge of purchases from Mexico for the Associated Lumber and Minerals Corporation. Subject has traveled extensively through the U.S. and has complied with enemy alien travel regulations. No indication of subversive activities at residence.

AGENCY PH. 25. 1/1
REQ. REC'D 2-2-58
FBI 7-24-58
BIO

REFERENCE

Bureau File No. 100-19512

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
May 14, 1942, at New York City.

DETAILS:

8

██████████ advised that ██████████ was unable at this time to furnish further information concerning subject or

100-195742-100
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CO Div. Rec.
ONI & G2
11-11-64
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NY File No. 100-12515

the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, [REDACTED], however, that [REDACTED] understands that MENO LISSAUER is the key man in this company, [REDACTED] would attempt to ascertain more information concerning the company and subject. b7C

Special Agent [REDACTED] examined the records of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, at Ellis Island, New York, which revealed that subject, as KURT E. REINSEBERG, arrived at the Port of New York on April 16, 1937, aboard the SS MANHATTAN. He indicated that he was 20 years of age, male, single, able to read and write German, and an agent by occupation. He stated that he is a citizen of Germany, of the Hebrew race. He was born in Brussels, Belgium, and his last permanent address was Cologne, Germany. His passport was held by his father, and he was destined to [REDACTED]. He was in possession of \$700.00 in American Express checks. He stated that he was coming to the United States in order to maintain a permanent residence. b7C

Special Agent [REDACTED] at the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, 611 Washington Street, New York City, examined their file No. 2521379, which reflected that subject filed his declaration of intention No. 261503 in the Southern District of New York on July 16, 1937. At this time he indicated that his address was 460 15th Street, Brooklyn, New York, and his former address was 225 Central Park West, Apartment 10, New York City. He stated that his occupation was that of office clerk. b7C

An examination of the application of subject for a certificate of identification as an enemy alien, which is on file in the New York Office, revealed that subject, Alien Registration No. 2352631, presently resides at 949 West End Avenue, New York City, and is employed by the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York City, as a buyer and assistant to the President, in which capacity he has worked since April 1937. He indicated that he was born November 3, 1916, in Brussels, Belgium, the son of LEHMANN and CLARA REINSEBERG, who presently reside at 949 West End Avenue. He stated that he has no relatives in the army of a foreign country. He further revealed that he is a member of the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the United Jewish Appeal and the American Red Cross. In a supplemental statement he stated that he was born in Brussels, of German Jewish parents; that he had to travel on a German passport because he lived in Belgium only from 1903 to 1918, and Belgian law requires 18 years uninterrupted residence before one can become a Belgian citizen. He lived in Germany until 1933 and then finished school in Brussels. As an alien, he was not permitted to work in Belgium or Holland, so he returned to Germany and attempted to obtain an American visa. He stated he received a visa in February 1937 under the Belgian quota. Subject b7C

NY File No. 100-12515

b7C

furnished as references. [REDACTED]

An examination of the alien enemy travel file maintained on subject by the office of the United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, revealed that subject has been granted a blanket authority to travel in the United States. This file revealed that on July 2, 1942, subject applied for permission for regular business travel to visit firms on behalf of his own firm for the purchase of residues, ashes, etc., and the sale of ores, in the States of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Idaho, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. He stated that trips were to be made during the month of July and subsequently. On July 10, 1942, [REDACTED] of the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, furnished a letter vouching for the loyalty of subject. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is a citizen of the United States.

b7C

On March 13, 1942, [REDACTED] Treasurer, Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, by letter, vouched for the loyalty of subject saying that the company is dealing in metals, chemicals and ores, and imports large quantities of ores for plants producing war materials. He stated that the corporation has an important zinc smelter in Texas, and an iron ore mine in Alabama, working for national defense.

b7C

The file revealed that on March 13, 1942, subject applied for permission to travel to Washington, D. C., to visit Brazilian and other South American Embassies regarding export licenses for materials sold to their representative countries, and to visit the Office of Export Control and other Governmental offices.

By letter dated July 21, 1942, [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] advised he has known subject for five years, has had many transactions with him and knows that he believes in the democratic ideals and is loyal to the United States. [REDACTED] stated that he, himself, is an American citizen.

b7C

On August 29, 1942, REINSBERG advised by letter that he was going to St. Louis to see the American Zinc Company of Illinois, 1600 Paul Brown Building; thence to Coffeyville, Kansas; Dumas, Texas; Chicago; Pittsburgh; and New York.

On August 31, 1942, he advised that he was proceeding to Coffeyville and would be at the Dale Hotel.

The files of the Alien Enemy Travel Section reveal that subject did

NY File No. 100-12515

not keep the United States Attorney informed with a detailed itinerary, but has always done so since a form letter was directed to him calling this to his attention.

b2 b7c

[redacted] advised that subject is registered with Local Board No. 34, 235 West 102nd Street, New York City. Subject has been placed in a 3-A classification, and [redacted] of the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation has requested the deferment of subject because of his employment. [redacted] advised that subject is complying with all Selective Service regulations and is presently being reclassified.

b2
b7c

b2 b7c

[redacted] advised that subject resides at 949 West End Avenue, New York City, with his parents. His parents are refugees from Europe and came to the United States soon after subject arrived. According to the informant, this family appears to have plenty of money and they pay about \$95.00 per month rent. Informant stated that subject has made several trips to Mexico, and during the month of May received a letter from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service which refused him permission to go again. Informant stated that subject is apparently supporting his parents and that no derogatory information has come to his attention, and he does not believe that subject is pro-Nazi or is engaged in any subversive activities. However, he stated that he is not in a position to furnish specific information concerning this in view of the fact that he speaks to subject on few occasions.

- P E N D I N G -

NY File No. 100-12515

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, N. Y.

Will contact [REDACTED] b7C
[REDACTED] at the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to ascertain [REDACTED] has obtained any further
information concerning the activities of subject.

Will make application to the United States Attorney, Southern
District of New York, for an Executive search warrant, and will make
appropriate search of the residence of subject, and interview.

AT KEN GARDENS, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Will contact [REDACTED] b7C
[REDACTED], who is personally acquainted with
the subject in this case and if he can furnish any additional information
concerning the activities of the subject and the Associated Metals and Minerals
Corporation.

NY File No. 100-12515

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

The confidential sources mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated October 1, 1942, at New York City, are identified as follows:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b7C

b2

b7d

#8

100-19512

May 18, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Re: KURT ERNEST REINBERG
ESPIONAGE - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your teletype dated April 9, 1942, advising that the facts regarding Reinberg and his possible internment as an enemy alien had been presented to the office of the United States Attorney.

Although you indicated that a report would be submitted by April 17, 1942, a review of the Bureau file fails to reflect the receipt of this report. It is my desire that such attention be given this case as will insure the receipt of a report at the Bureau in the immediate future.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/18/84 BY SP4 [redacted]
RECEIVED MAY 20 1942

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAILED 7
★ MAY 19 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11 MAY 23 1942

RECEIVED
MAY 19 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

100-19512-9

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 20 1942

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NY FILE NO. 100-12515

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK CITY | DATE WHEN MADE 4-1-43 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-29-43 | REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] |
| TITLE KURT ERNEST REINBERG | | | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Assistant USA, SDNY Saul S. Sharison, after reviewing the facts in the reference report, declined to request a presidential warrant.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 3-9-43 at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

On March 29, 1943 this case was discussed with Assistant United States Attorney Saul S. Sharison, Southern District of New York, who, after reviewing the reference report, declined to request a presidential warrant for the reason he does not consider the subject dangerous to the internal security of the country at this time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/1/81 BY SP4

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 12 1943
FBI - NEW YORK

AGENCY 100-12515
REQ. REC'D 2-24-48
REP. BY [REDACTED]

CLOSED -

APPROVED
FORWARDED

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May 16 1945

Reference is made to your letter to this office dated March 29, 1945, in which (S) you requested information concerning Art Singer, and the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, 40 Rector Street, New York City.

There is attached hereto a memorandum which sets out information concerning these two subjects.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours

Attachment.

DELIVERED BY
MAY 22 1945

10

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Information was received from a reliable and confidential source on May 12, 1941, in which it was stated that Weno Lissauer arrived in New York, New York, within the past few months from Rotterdam, Holland, and that Lissauer reportedly had left Holland in a military car furnished by the Nazis, in view of the assistance Lissauer had been to the German Government. It was stated by a confidential source that the Consul in Rotterdam originally refused to grant Lissauer a visa. The informant appeared quite certain that Lissauer was undoubtedly attempting to export vital metals from this country to Germany in some manner in order to evade the British blockade. The Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation, with which these individuals are affiliated, reported to have been engaged in the handling of ores, refined metals, scrap copper, zinc, lead, and tin, in addition to chemical derivatives.

Information from a reliable and confidential source, on February 25, 1941, reflected the following information concerning Weno Lissauer and the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation:

Dr. Weno Lissauer wrote to [redacted] of the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation that he [redacted] Associated Metals and Minerals [redacted] and a certain [redacted] were apparently to be the participants in a new firm to be opened in Buenos Aires, very likely under the name of "Montana" (to which might be added the title, Association for the Utilization of Ore, Metals and Chemical Products). b7C

Apparently the founders of this firm were to be American and not German. Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation wrote to Weno Lissauer that "all the really big business is done by [redacted] who does not talk much." b7C

A reliable and confidential source of information said the following:

"An interesting connection is shown in a letter dated December 13 (40?) from Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation to [redacted] which says: 'Don't be afraid that Mitsubishi will double cross us in the negotiations with Ouseiro. They are a true friend of ours.'" b7C

The confidential source of information said further, finally there is a most interesting communication from the Associated Metals and Minerals Corporation to [redacted] which, however, does not directly bear on Weno Lissauer or [redacted]. It says that [redacted] had learned about two hundred million dollars of [redacted] Norwegian assets in the United States which are to be released and used in industries concerned in the United States armament program. An option was to have been taken on a ship building plant near Bridgeport, Connecticut. [redacted] was working with the committee and our suggestion to interest them in the Rose Yard in Philadelphia was accepted." The plan of Associated Metals and Minerals, in part at least b7C

In the smelting of ores by the branches adapted to this work. varying quantities of gold, silver and other precious metals were extracted. These metals were sold to Deutsche Gold & Silver Scheideanstalt, who in turn sold them to England or other foreign countries; thereby establishing foreign credits that were used at the discretion of the Reichsbank. The association of Lissauer & Cie. with the Gold and Silver Bank was limited to this activity, and there apparently was no mutual ownership as implied by year memorandum. The only reference to this bank to be found occurs in 1936, when Associated, New York owed \$187,800 to the bank of Sal Oppenheim Jr. (later called Pfor de Wengue). In this connection the Deutsche Gold and Silver Scheideanstalt, noted as guarantors.

Lissauer & Cie. figured largely in supplying German armament factories with essential metals, despite the fact that its owners were non-Aryan. They supplied almost exclusively the needs of Fried Krupp A. G., Essen, Germany. Through their agent, Associated Metals and Minerals Corp., New York, Lissauer & Cie. made contracts with large producers of metals in the United States and Mexico. Some of these producers were Kennecott Copper Corp., International Nickel Co., St. Joseph's Lead Company (parent of Aguillar Corp.), and the El Petee Mining Corp. In some instances, these contracts were made in the name of Krupp, and in other instances, they were made in the name of Lissauer & Cie. for the year 1936, and H. V. Oxyde for the years 1937, 1938, and 1939. The contract with St. Joseph's Lead Company, (parent of Aguillar Corp.) was made in this manner.

Although most other non-Aryan firms in Germany were early dissolved, or limited after the advent of Hitler, Lissauer & Cie. continued to operate unselected, and with considerable freedom from exchange restrictions. Most of the concerns in Germany including Aryans as well operated under restricted license, but Lissauer & Cie. operated under a general license which was extended only to those in Government service.

Despite the fact that Lissauer & Cie. enjoyed extraordinary privileges from the Reich, and were in a preferred position because of their munitions work, they arranged to transfer much of their capital out of Germany. This was done through various forms of financial manipulation. One of these subterfuges consisted in the payment of inflated commission fees to Associated, New York, for handling the shipment of metal ores from here and Mexico. It is rumored that large sums of money belonging to the Sal Oppenheim Jr. Bank came here in this manner, in addition to Lissauer's funds.

In 1923, Lissauer & Cie. organized H. V. Oxyde in Amsterdam, Holland. This company was dormant and merely a mailing address for a number of years. Regarding this company, the following excerpt from the files of a reliable financial institution dated December 22, 1932, is pertinent:

"From the June balance sheet figures () which have been submitted to us, we observed that a considerable part of the sundry debtors item have been replaced by an investment in the Dutch metal

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: OCT 28 1974

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: KURT ERNEST REINSBERG

Re: [REDACTED] (S) Kurt E. Reinsberg
Re: [REDACTED] to New York dated 8/15/74, captioned
[REDACTED], and
[REDACTED] dated 2/14/73, captioned "KURT ERNEST
REINSBERG; [REDACTED]"

CLASSIFIED BY: SP-1
REASON: 1.5 (d)
DECLASSIFY ON: X

11

It should be pointed out that subject is a US citizen who was born 11/3/16 at Brussels, Belgium and who has resided continuously in the US since 1935, having been naturalized a US citizen on 2/24/44 in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

2 Bureau (RM)
1 New York

Classified by [REDACTED]
Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by 791
Exempt from GDS, Category 2+2
Date of Declassification Indefinite

SECRET

U.S. Savings Bonds Buy Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY

(S)

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~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~